Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Task Force Jan 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Present: Carol Gable, Shirley Knop; Alan Cole; Mona Perrotti; Liseli Haines; Alma Lowry; Kathy Collett; Steve Orvis; Steve Bellona, Sally Carman, Aaron Strong and Garry Colarrusso. Three students from the Clinton HS environmental club also joined.

Kirkland received official notice that it earned the CEC designation. Garry provided a quote to be used in the press release sent to NYSERDA for approval. Once it’s approved, Carol will forward to local news publications and Alan will update taskforce website.

Aaron reported the vulnerability assessment completed by HC students will be ready for submission soon.

In order to earn points for green yard waste program, information on the programs must be made available to residents (i.e. via website, newspaper announcements, brochures). Clinton is revising their yard waste program and village website will be updated to reflect new program. John Scott is putting together a statement on Kirkland’s yard waste program. Alan will add information on the yard waste programs with appropriate links to the CSC taskforce website.

Steve Orvis has been in communication with Hamilton College on possible collaboration for a food waste program. The College already brings its food waste to the anaerobic digester in Utica. The taskforce may apply for town/gown and other grants to develop solutions. Perhaps a pilot program with CNY Recycle as a short term project and work with Bliss for more long term solution. Perhaps a survey of residents who may be interested in participating in a food waste/compost program would be useful.

Clinton has passed a Complete Streets Resolution and Kirkland is considering. Carol asked if the town could discuss at an upcoming board meeting on zoom. She also asked if it would be helpful for members of the taskforce to attend meeting at which the resolution is discussed to voice their support. Garry said that would be helpful. In order to earn CSC points for the Complete Streets action, the village and town will also need to indicate how they will work towards improving access for walkers, bikers, handicapped, etc. This can be done by assigning responsibility to a municipal department or creating a taskforce to review areas of concern, make recommendations, apply for grants, etc.

Steve B. has not had chance to review FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System yet. This is a program which may help residents achieve significant discounts on flood insurance. Steve and Aaron will review information on the program and be prepared to discuss at next meeting.

Developing a community climate action plan which includes community engagement will be a focus for the spring. This initiative will take some time and while Hamilton students can assist, the taskforce will need to do much of the work. Alma will research and perhaps forward some information to the taskforce to read as we begin to plan how to do this.

The Clinton H.S. students recommended that the committee use social media to let community members aware of their efforts. Taskforce members shared its website and Instagram account and said information on facebook will likely be added when more community engagement efforts initiated.

Steve B. reported that the village has converted more lights to LED thereby reducing emissions further and providing opportunity to earn more CSC points. He will provide info to Carol when available to upload to CSC portal.

Steve also reported that various community groups are discussing ways to improve the village, support local businesses, etc. Efforts are being made to bring groups together for a joint conversation to create some synergy and alliance of efforts. More to come.

Meeting ended at approximately 7:30